

III. Remarks


Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 8, 14 and 20 have been amended to further clarify the invention, and claims 21-25 have been amended to correct dependencies in view of the claim renumbering made by the Office. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. No new matter is believed added.

In the Office Action, the Office has renumbered claims 19-26 to now be listed as claims 18-25. Applicants thank the Office for this correction. In addition, the Office has rejected claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-17, 19-23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kitaoka et al. (Kitaoka). Still yet, claims 7, 11, 18 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kitaoka.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited art fails to teach each and every feature of the claimed invention. For example, as cited in claims 1, 8, 14, and 20 (and shown in Figs. 14 - 45), the bumper of the claimed invention extends along an entire edge of at least one of the front portion (or the front guard) and the rear portion (or the back guard). Conversely, as shown in Fig. 1 and described in column 2, lines 53-60, Kitaoka merely teaches a foamed member that lies within the core of a diaper. Limiting the foamed member to the core of the diaper will not provide the same high level of waste absorption and leakage protection as the bumper of the claimed invention. Accordingly, because the cited art fails to teach each and every feature of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the above-referenced rejections.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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